

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION NATO

MBFR VIENNA 39

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 16650

ISLAMABAD FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, WB

SUBJ: MORE ON THE SCHMIDT VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 16569

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMUNIQUE ("JOINT STATEMENT") ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SCHMIDT VISIT STRESSES THE STRONG POINTS OF THE FRG-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP -- PRIMARILY THOSE FOUND IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES-- AND NOTES FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD THE SOLUTION OF SOME OUTSTANDING BILATERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. OUR FRG COLLEAGUES HAVE REQUESTED THEIR ASSESSMENT (REFTEL) OF THE VISIT AS USEFUL, EVEN THOUGH THE CROP OF ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TERMS OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED WAS A RATHER SMALL ONE. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE VISIT IN FACT LIVED UP TO PREDICTIONS MADE BY BOTH SIDES IN

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MID-OCTOBER THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE HARD BARGAINING ON

SOME OF THE MORE STUBBORN ISSUES IN FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS, WITH SOME PROGRESS PROBABLE BUT NOT MANY OUTRIGHT AGREEMENTS LIKELY. OUR FRG COLLEAGUES ARE APPARENTLY SATISFIED WITH MEDIA COVERAGE DURING THE VISIT, INCLUDING A FIVE-MINUTE SCHMIDT SPEECH WHICH WAS BROADCAST OCTOBER 30 ON THE NATIONAL EVENING TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. BERLIN. THE COMMUNIQUE (PUBLISHED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS MORNING OF OCTOBER 31) MAKES NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO BERLIN, NOTING ONLY BRIEFLY THAT THE QA "WAS DISCUSSED," AND THAT BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR STATEMENT OF MAY 21, 1973, IN THIS REGARD (THE STATEMENT CALLING FOR STRICT ADHERENCE MADE DURING THE BREZHNEV VIST TO BONN). NEVERTHELESS, AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE FRG IS ENCOURAGED BY WHAT IT SEES AS SOVIET MOVEMENT BEGUN DURING THE VISIT ON THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN BILATERAL FRG-SOVIET AGREEMENTS. THE FRG POLITICAL COUNSELOR, BALSER, REPEATED THIS ASSESSMENT ON OCTOBER 31, NOTING THAT TALKS ON BERLIN WILL CONTINUE, WITH SOME PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. THE COMMUNIQUE DOES ANNOUNCE, WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE BERLIN CONNECTION, THAT PROGRESS WAS REACHED ON THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE, THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, AND THE TOURIST OFFICE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, AND ADDS THAT THIS PROGRESS "ALLOWS THE EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS" DURING FURTHER WORK ON THE AGREEMENTS. IT PLACES THE QUESTION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE ON A LOWER LEVEL OF EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, NOTING SIMPLY THAT BOTH SIDES HAD CONFIRMED THE "POSSIBILITY OF POSITIVE RESULTS" IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE. BALSER ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO ANY SUGGESTION OF LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS INTO TEGEL.

3. ETHNIC GERMAN EMIGRATION. THE COMMUNIQUE, IN WHAT IS PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO THIS QUESTION, NOTES THE "FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF A HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER," AND SAYS THAT THE SIDES "ADVOCATE THEIR CONSIDERATION IN A POSITIVE WAY IN

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THE FUTURE AS WELL."

4. CSCE. THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR COMPLETION OF CSCE "IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME," BUT AVOIDS ANY REFERENCE TO LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE CONCLUDING SESSION. BALSER SAID THAT THE DECISION TO OMIT ALL REFERENCE TO LEVEL WAS TAKEN AFTER NEITHER SIDE WOULD MOVE FROM ITS OWN POSITION ON THE QUESTION -- THE SOVIETS

INSISTING ON "HIGHEST LEVEL," THE FRG ON "APPROPRIATE LEVEL." HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE WEST GERMANS PROPOSED THEIR LANGUAGE ON PEACEFUL CHANGE TO THE SOVIETS, WHO REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD "CONSIDER" THE LANGUAGE.

5. MBFR. THOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES THAT THE SIDES "EXCHANGED OPINIONS" ON MBFR BALSER SAID THAT IN FACT NO SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF OPINION HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE SUBJECT. SCHMIDT DID FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOUND A FEW OF HIS VIEWS, BUT THE SOVIETS, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, DID NOT PURSUE THE SUBJECT.

6. DISARMAMENT. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR AN EXAMINATION OF MEASURES AIMED AT PROHIBITING ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION FOR MILITARY MEANS, THOUGH IT DOES NOT MENTION THE SOVIET UN PROPOSAL ON THIS ISSUE. IT ALSO NOTES THAT BOTH SIDES UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NPT, AND THAT SCHMIDT "EXPRESSED THE HOPE" THAT SALT II WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

7. EC-COMECON RELATIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF "OFFICIAL CONTACTS" BETWEEN THE EC AND COMECON WOULD SERVE TO BROADEN ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE.

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